ber of eye Surgeons in the country and also expand the programme to the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Government through mass media and with the assistance of Voluntary Organisations is bringing about awareness amongst public to donate their eyes after death.

(b) The exact national figures for the last 3 years are not available. However, the pledges received by Times Eye Research Foundation and Dr. R.P Centre, New Delhi for the last 3 years are as follows:

1984	6881
1985	21053
1986	42850

According to available information Dr. R.P. Centre has received and utilised 602 eyes during the last three years period and the 16 eye banks have reported utilisation of 353 eyes during the current year.

(c) and (d) The number of trained eye surgeons is adequate to cope up with the number of eyes being donated to the eye banks at present. However, the need will increase with increasing eye-donation activity. The Programme is under constant review and is being expanded in a phased manner.

Upgradation of Air India's fleet

*72. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India have any proposal under consideration to upgrade its fleet during the next year;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the proposal and financial implications thereof; and

(c) how many persons are likely to get employment as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. With a view to augment/upgrade its fleet, Air India has placed an order with the Boeing Company for purchase of two Boeing 747-300(Combi) aircraft for delivery in October/November, 1988. The total project cost is approximately US $ 274.20 Million (Rs. 371.74 crores) including rupee expenditure. As a result thereof about 498 persons are likely to get direct employment.

Digha-Tamluk and Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana Railway Lines

*73. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state what progress has been made so far in physical and financial terms, in regard to the proposed Digha-Tamluk and Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana railway lines in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): The progress upto September, 1987 is as under:—

	Financial
(i) Tamluk-Digha	Rs. 1.60 Crores
(ii) Lakshmikantapur-Namkhana	Rs. 0.63 Crores

The construction work on the above projects has commenced and is in initial stages.

N.P.A. to the Homoeopathic Doctors

*74. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Homoeopathic doctors working with M.C.D. and N.D.M.C. and C.G.H.S. are given non-practising allowance;